

**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Police Citizen's Service Award Presentation

MEETING DATE: May 7, 2008

PREPARED BY: David J. Main, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Chief David Main will present Citizen's Service Awards to three individuals, David Rivas, Ruth Ann Ruiz-Gomez, and Lucia Montour.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Citizen Service Medals will be awarded to citizens who perform an exceptional service to the Department, its employees, or to the community.

On April 23, 2007, officers were dispatched to a gas station on Cherokee Lane on a man with a knife call. When they arrived, they found an intoxicated **41** year old male holding a 12" butcher knife and yelling at people in the lot. They eventually used a taser to subdue him.

The subsequent investigation revealed the subject caused a disturbance inside the store earlier in the evening. David Rivas and his wife were shopping in the store and heard the suspect harassing the employees. Rivas argued with the suspect and eventually convinced him to leave. The suspect returned a few minutes later holding a butcher knife. Rivas was inside the store at the time. The suspect charged towards the store moving the knife up and down in a stabbing motion. Rivas ran to the front door and held it shut as the suspect tried to force his way into the store. The suspect struggled to open the door and yelled that he was going to kill the people in the store.

Rivas quickly pushed the door open and forced the suspect back into the lot. He ran outside and tried to distract him. He was trying to get the suspect away from the employees and his wife. The suspect charged at him and told him he was going to kill him. The suspect chased Rivas around the gas pumps while swinging the knife in a stabbing motion. Rivas slipped and fell to the ground.

Ruth Ann Ruiz-Gomez saw Rivas on the ground and ran out to help him. She grabbed a floor mat from outside the store and began hitting the suspect with it. Lucia Montour heard the yelling and came to see what was happening. She ran over and took a squeegee and began hitting the suspect with it to keep him from stabbing Rivas. Ruiz-Gomez tried to grab the suspect's knife from him but he moved outside her reach. The suspect began chasing Rivas again but the officers arrived and took the suspect into custody.

APPROVED: 
Blair King, City Manager

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The Awards Committee is made up of five sworn officers and four support staff employees. Individuals are nominated by their peers, supervisors, other employees, and the public. Sworn officers, employees and volunteers are eligible for the awards. The awards committee conducts investigation into each nomination. These investigations may include interviews with the nominees, their co-workers, their supervisors, the public, and anyone else who might provide information regarding the nomination. The awards committee votes by secret ballot and the results are forwarded to an executive committee (two individuals who are not associated with the committee) for final review.

Please note all other police awards were presented at a departmental luncheon held February 27, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING AVAILABLE: N/A



Chief of Police
David J. Melin